DULHASTI HYDEL PROJECT

2657. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 580 given in Rajya Sabha on 7-12-1993 and to state :

(a)) whether Government of India are going to restart the work in Dulhasti Hydel Power Project with Indian Contingent of Workers and engineers of NHPC; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Discussions with the French Consortium on the framework for restarting the work at Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project site are under progress.

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES FROM FOREIGN COMPANIES

2658. DR. NAUTIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a)) whether it is a fact that the international banking consortia are insisting on performance guarantees before extending credit to foreign companies which are keen on setting up power plants in India;

(b) what are those guarantees, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have given a nod to guarantees for loans taken by the proposed investors; what kind of assurance have the Government given in this respect; the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Prospective private power companies have indicated that Banks and Financial Institutions from whom they are likely to raise funds for power projects may insist on guarantees by GOI for the payment obligations of SEBs.

(c) On a request made by the concerned state Goiernment, Goi may consider extending a counter-guarantee for the payment obligations of SEB which have been guaranteed by State Governments, subject to certain conditions.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN POWER SECTOR

2659. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited UK and USA to seek foreign investment in power sector;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the visit; and

(c) to what extent the US and UK have agreed to invest in power sector during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The outcome of the visit is very satisfactory, in terms of attracting investments from U.K. and USA into the Power Sector.

(c) As on date private firms belonging to USA and UK have shown interest in setting up of 24 power projects amounting to 15366 MW costing Rs 49871.00 crores. To what extent the investment would materialise during 1993-94 would depend on the financial closure of the respective projects.

AMENDING LOANS GOVERNING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN POWER SECTOR

2660. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the laws governing foreign investment in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the American Power Companies have refused to invest in India unless the tax-free status is provided to the power sector;

(d) whether a number of foreign firms have also demanded the same; and

(e) whether Government have taken a final decision in this regard, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

THREATS OF TERRORIST OUTFITS AGAINST THE EXCUTION OF DULHASTI PROJECT

2661. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 580 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1993 and state :

(a) what was the original cost of Dulhasti Project;

(b) whether the terrorist outfits have issued threats against the execution of this project; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the present status of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project was sanctioned in July 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1262.97 crore (including interest during construction) for execution through a French Consortium.

(b) In July 1993, the French Consortium received a warning through the press from terrorists of severe punishment in case the work at the Project was not stopped.

(c) Work at the project site had been suspended by the French Consortium in August 1992 on grounds of security. Till then most of the infrastructural work and about 27 per cent of the major civil works had been completed. About 75 per cent of the work relating to engineering and design and preparation of detailed construction drawings has also been completed. The Consortium have supplied about 28 per cent of the electro-mechanical equipment and another 50 per cent of the equipment is ready for shipment.

संसद सदस्यों द्वारा मंत्रालय को भेजे गए पत्र

2662. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल** : क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) संसद सदस्यों द्वारा मंत्रालय को 1-4-90 से 31-3-93 की अवधि के दौरान लिखे गए पत्रों का वर्षवार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इन पत्रों में से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई,

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अंतिम उत्तर भेजे गए, और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा भेजे गए इन अंतिम उत्तरों में से कितने पत्रों के उत्तर सकारात्मक थे और कितने नकारात्मक ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. वी. रंगैया नायडु) : (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान